for adequate defence preparedness. The purchase of fighter aircraft required for the Air Force is made in accordance with the established Defence Procurement Procedure.

Fulfilling strategic requirements by DRDO

30. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our armed forces are apprehensive that DRDO will not be keeping the dates for meeting their requirements of strategic armaments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and occasions when DRDO could not deliver in time during the last three years;

(c) steps being taken to streamline working of DRDO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The fact is that due to genuine technical difficulties some of the projects have been delayed, but these are nearing completion at various times as given below and when developed the products will be equipped with current technologies with a useful life of about 20-25 years.

Status of some of the major projects is as follows:

Systems	Probable Date of Completion
Command Information Decision Support System (CIDSS) for Army Commanders-Samvahak	31st December, 2006
Integrated Electronic Warfare Programme-Samyukta	30th November, 2007
Naval Indigenous Electronic Warfare Programme-Sangraha	31st December, 2006
Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)	31st December, 2007
Light Combat Aircraft (Final Operational Clearance)	2010

For other ongoing projects, all efforts are being made to meet the Probable Date of Completion (PDC).

(c) & (d) Stringent review and monitoring mechanism has been put in place. For the new projects involvement of user and industry is ensured *ab-initio*. Shared stake holding is also being brought and discussed which will ensure accountability.

Discharge sought by Defence officers

31. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 2000 Defence officers from Generals and Rear Admirals to Lieutenants have sought discharge from India's armed forces over the last five years creating severe manpower shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study as to why more and more officers are seeking discharge from the service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures being taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Number of Officers who sought discharge and number of officers who have been granted prematue retirement and resignation during the last five years in the Army, Navy and Air Force is given in the statement attached. The staternent indicates that there is no significant increase in the number of personnel whose requests for discharge have been aproved (*See* below). No study has been conducted by the Government.